



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY • Public Health Service
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH • Bethesda 14, Md.

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND METABOLIC DISEASES
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL RESEARCH
NATIONAL HEART INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH
NATIONAL MICROBIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES AND BLINDNESS
THE CLINICAL CENTER
DIVISION OF RESEARCH GRANTS

In reply please
refer to E-72(C3)

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics
College of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Doctor Lederberg:

Thank you very much for the kind remarks, in your letter of July 12, regarding the administration and the personnel of the grants program. I am sorry that the grant recently awarded you was in an amount less than you requested and I hope that the curtailed funds will not seriously interfere with the successful conduct of your work involving the genetics of bacteria.

I should like to assure you that the members of the reviewing panels who passed on your project were keenly interested in encouraging investigations in the field of bacterial genetics and, I believe, found your proposal particularly interesting and promising; however, since the latter phase of your research is still in its early stages, it was difficult for our advisory bodies to evaluate the eventual productivity of your project against the many other requests which were necessarily in competition for the limited amount of money available. I do hope that the work will proceed as you anticipate, and that the new data which you will include in your next progress report will be sufficient to obtain for you the funds needed adequately to accomplish your plan of experimentation.

From the statements contained in your letter, I am confident you realize that we are constantly confronted with the problem of refusing many worthwhile scientific proposals for which we have insufficient research grant funds and that our problem is complicated by the uncertainty regarding the amount of yearly congressional appropriations. It is, therefore, impossible for me to make any commitments or even predictions regarding the outcome of requests for future support. I do wish to reassure you, however, that the policy of our reviewing panels is unchanged

and that every consideration will be given to the scientific merits of your proposal should you elect to request continued support for your research.

Please do not hesitate to write me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard Karel, Ph.D.
Chief, Extramural Programs
National Microbiological Institute